

CHIEF POLICE PILOT

Class Definition

Under direction, supervises a police helicopter operation to include training civilian and sworn personnel in law enforcement aerial patrols, and the use of thermal imaging.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Chief Police Pilot is a non-sworn position assigned to the Aviation Unit in the Police Department. The incumbent supervises the police helicopter operations under F.A.R. part 91; trains and supervises civilian and sworn personnel in law enforcement aerial patrol operations; assists with budget preparation, maintenance scheduling, flight logs, training procedures and policy manual development; and instructs police officers as pilots and personnel in the use of thermal imaging and equipment associated with law enforcement aerial patrols. The incumbent will be required to work variable hours as necessary to include nights, weekends and holidays.

Typical Tasks

(This list is neither inclusive not exclusive. Consequently, this information may not reflect Essential Functions for this class.)

Trains and supervises civilian and sworn personnel in law enforcement aerial patrol operations and ensures pilot and observer proficiency.

Assists with budget preparations, maintenance scheduling, flight logs, training procedures and policy manual development for Aviation Unit.

Instructs police officers as pilots and personnel in the use of thermal imaging and equipment associated with law enforcement aerial patrols.

Pilots a police helicopter in patrolling the city; responds to calls for protection of life and property, and the enforcement of city, county and state laws; may conduct both preliminary and follow-up investigations of aircraft accidents.

Establishes liaisons with other law enforcement agencies in matters relating to the investigation or surveillance of crimes and suspects and the apprehension of offenders.

Inspects helicopter and associated equipment to ensure safe operations and to determine needed repairs and maintenance of aircraft before and after a flight.

Performs other related duties as required.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Knowledge of the unique capabilities, mechanical features, and maintenance requirements of a piston driven Enstrom helicopter, specifically as they relate to police missions.

Knowledge of federal aviation regulations, specifically as they pertain to part 91 operations.

Knowledge of law enforcement aerial patrol procedures, surveillance techniques, tactics and procedures unique to municipal police departments.

Knowledge of police helicopter program budgets, purchasing procedures and vendor accessibility for the Enstrom aircraft.

Ability to supervise a police helicopter operation under F.A.R. part 91.

Ability to train observers in the use of thermal imaging and equipment associated with law enforcement aerial patrols.

Ability to train police officers to become certified pilots by the Federal Aviation Administration and to perform emergency aircraft landings.

Ability to provide training to certified flight instructors.

Ability to recognize potential mechanical hazards and failures occurring to the Enstrom helicopter.

Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Minimum Qualifications

Five years of municipal law enforcement experience as a police pilot in a part 91 operation as regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration, which included two years as a chief pilot, 5,000 hours of logged rotorcraft pilot time, 500 hours in a piston driven Enstrom, and experience in maintaining police helicopter budgets and assisting with maintenance of aircraft.

Special Requirements

Possession of a commercial rotorcraft pilot rating as issued by the Federal Aviation Administration at time of appointment.

Possession of a certified flight instructor rating in rotorcraft helicopters as issued by the Federal Aviation Administration at time of appointment.

Possession of a valid Class 2 medical certificate as issued by the Federal Aviation Administration at time of appointment.

Possession of a valid California Driver's License may be required at time of appointment.

APPROVED: _____
Director of Administrative Services

DATE: _____

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